

# Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

Progress Report #25 November 2018 – January 2019

February 1, 2019

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## **Appendix**

A. Project Schedule

#### 1. Introduction

This Progress Report (Report) prepared by Roux Environmental Engineering and Geology, D.P.C. (Roux) presents a summary of activities completed during the period of November 2018 through January 2019, on behalf of Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, LLC (CFAC), for the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being performed at the Anaconda Aluminum Co. Columbia Falls Reduction Plant (a/k/a Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant) generally located near Columbia Falls in Flathead County, Montana ("Site"). The RI/FS is being conducted pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC) dated November 30, 2015 between CFAC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (CERCLA Docket No. 08-2016-0002).

This Report provides a description of the actions that have been taken to comply with the AOC during the reporting period and describes work planned for the upcoming reporting period, including an updated project schedule as Appendix A. This report also provides updates regarding the availability of any new, validated sampling data received by CFAC during the reporting period. Lastly, this Report provides an update on any scope revisions and/or project delays encountered and solutions implemented to address any changes.

### 2. Work Completed

This section provides a summary of activities completed or ongoing from November 2018 through January 2019.

#### 2.1 Final Baseline Risk Assessment Work Plans

As described in prior progress reports, CFAC/Roux submitted the final Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan (BHHRA WP) to USEPA on September 28, 2018 and received a letter from USEPA approving the final BHHRA WP on October 23, 2018. CFAC/Roux submitted the final Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plan (BERA WP) to USEPA on November 15, 2018 and received a letter from USEPA approving the final BERA WP on November 30, 2018. CFAC/Roux and Roux's risk assessment subcontractor, EHS Support, LLC, (EHS) are preparing the draft risk assessment reports to be submitted by March 1, 2019, as described in Section 2.5.

#### 2.2 Submittal of Risk Assessment Interim Deliverables

As described in prior progress reports, CFAC/Roux and EHS submitted three risk assessment interim deliverables to provide additional details regarding the risk assessment assumptions and methodology beyond that included in the BHHRA WP and BERA WP. Roux submitted the Technical Memorandum for Proposed Wildlife Exposure Modeling Approach to Support the BERA WP on August 17, 2018 (Exposure Modeling Interim Deliverable); the Interim Deliverable for the BHHRA WP on August 30, 2018 (BHHRA WP Interim Deliverable); and the Technical Memorandum for Proposed Refined Ecological Screening Values (ESVs) to Support the BERA WP on September 25, 2018 (Refined ESV Interim Deliverable).

USEPA provided comments on the Exposure Modeling Interim Deliverable on October 31, 2018, and comments on the BHHRA WP Interim Deliverable and Refined ESV Interim Deliverable on November 1, 2018.

CFAC/Roux/EHS submitted responses to USEPA comments on the BERA interim deliverables on December 6, 2018, and USEPA provided additional comments on December 20, 2018. In their e-mail correspondence, USEPA indicated they accepted all the responses, with the exception of two, and requested that a conference call be held between the CFAC team and USEPA risk assessors to discuss the outstanding comments. A conference call was not scheduled due to the temporary United States government shutdown. Rather, in an e-mail response provided on January 8, 2019, CFAC/Roux/EHS agreed to USEPA's additional comments on the Exposure Modeling Interim Deliverable, and indicated that they would proceed with finalizing that document. CFAC/Roux/EHS Support also provided an additional response to USEPA's comments on the Refined ESV Interim Deliverable in the e-mail.

USEPA's additional response and/or approval of the three risk assessment interim deliverables is pending.

#### 2.3 Investigation Derived Waste Disposal

During the Phase II Site Characterization field activities, monitoring well development purge water and groundwater investigation-derived waste (IDW) was stored onsite in accordance with the IDW Management Plan dated May 9, 2016 and the AOC. Water IDW was generated and stored onsite in a frac tank through October 2018 until groundwater sampling and surface water sampling activities were completed. Upon completion of sampling activities, Roux personnel collected a water IDW sample from the frac tank for waste

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characterization analysis. Sample results from the water IDW waste characterization samples indicated that water was non-hazardous. Roux provided the sample results to the USEPA and to the Section Manager for Washington State Ecology's Waste 2 Resources Program on November 7, 2018. Approximately 1,200 gallons were vacuumed from the frac tank and transported via vacuum truck to Waste Management Graham Road Recycling and Disposal, 1820 S. Graham Road Medical Lake, WA 99022 for disposal. The non-hazardous IDW manifest will be included in the Phase II Site Characterization Data Summary Report.

## 2.4 Preparation of the Draft Phase II Site Characterization Data Summary Report

CFAC and Roux continued to review and analyze the field and laboratory data generated during the Phase II Site Characterization Program completed from April 2018 through October 2018. The results are being utilized to prepare the draft Phase II Site Characterization Data Summary Report, which will be submitted to USEPA and MDEQ for review on, or before, March 1, 2019 in accordance with the schedule provided in Section 5.0. The Data Summary Report will present all Site Characterization data (including the Phase I Site Characterization dataset, the Supplemental South Pond Assessment dataset, the Phase II Site Characterization dataset, and the Background Investigation dataset).

#### 2.5 Preparation of the Draft Risk Assessment Reports

Roux and EHS continued to review and analyze the field and laboratory data generated during the Phase I and Phase II Site Characterization Program which are being utilized to prepare the draft Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Report (BHHRA Report) and the draft Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Report (BERA Report). The risk assessment reports are being prepared in accordance with the BHHRA WP and BERA WP the three draft risk assessment interim deliverables, and comments/responses on the draft interim deliverables. The draft BHHRA and BERA reports will be submitted to USEPA and MDEQ for review on, or before, March 1, 2019 in accordance with the schedule provided in Section 5.0.

#### 2.6 Weekly Reporting, Project Conference Calls, and Project Meetings

A project update call was not held during the reporting period of November 2018 through January 2019. A project update call was scheduled with the project team for January 16, 2019, but the call was postponed due to the temporary United States government shutdown. The project update call will be rescheduled for the upcoming reporting periods.

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## 3. Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

This section summarizes the work planned for the next quarterly reporting period of February to April 2019.

#### 3.1 Approval of Risk Assessment Interim Deliverables

As described in Section 2.2, Roux and EHS submitted three draft risk assessment interim deliverables in August and September 2018. The interim deliverables were reviewed by USEPA during multiple rounds of comments and responses. USEPA's additional response and or/approval of these documents is pending.

#### 3.2 Preparation and Submittal of the Draft Phase II Site Characterization Data Summary Report

As described in Section 2.4, CFAC and Roux will continue to review and analyze the field and laboratory data generated during the Phase II Site Characterization Program in preparation of the Draft Phase II Site Characterization Data Summary Report. The report will be submitted to USEPA/MDEQ for review on, or before, March 1, 2019 in accordance with the schedule provided in Section 5.0.

#### 3.3 Preparation and Submittal of the Draft Risk Assessment Reports

As described in Section 2.5, Roux and EHS will continue to review and analyze the field and laboratory data generated during the Phase I and Phase II Site Characterization Program in preparation of the draft BHHRA Report and the draft BERA Report. The reports will be submitted to USEPA/MDEQ for review on, or before, March 1, 2019 in accordance with the schedule provided in Section 5.0.

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## 4. Database Updates

Validation of laboratory data generated during the Phase II Site Characterization was performed by Laboratory Data Consultants (LDC) as a subcontractor to Roux. All validated laboratory data from the Phase II Site Characterization (106 validated Electronic Data Deliverables) were received from LDC and uploaded to the CFAC RI/FS database during this reporting period.

If additional data is generated during the RI/FS, validated data will continue to be imported into the project database and managed in accordance with the data management procedures outlined in applicable Sampling and Analysis Plans. Future progress reports will discuss updates to the project database as additional data is generated.

## 5. Scope/Schedule Revisions

As described in the October 10, 2018 e-mail to USEPA, "Re: CFAC Proposed Advanced RI/FS Schedule," CFAC/Roux requested changes to the RI/FS schedule with the goal of advancing the completion date of the RI/FS, including completing the Draft Candidate Technologies and Remedial Alternatives Memorandum as part of the Feasibility Study Work Plan and reducing the CFAC/Roux report preparation time. USEPA verbally agreed to these modifications during the October 17, 2018 Project Update Meeting. As a follow-up to this discussion, and as described in the October 31, 2018 e-mail to USEPA, "Re: CFAC RI/FS AOC Schedule Modification and AOC Amendment 2," CFAC/Roux requested a modification to the project schedule to modify Table 3 in the CFAC RI/FS Work Plan titled "RI/FS Schedule of Deliverables and Activities." The request was then forwarded to USEPA and reviewed between October and December 2018. USEPA provided approval of the schedule modification in a letter signed December 19, 2018.

An updated project schedule is attached to this progress report. The dates reflected in this schedule are based on dates within the AOC, AOC amendments, and the current projected timeline by Roux.

On behalf of CFAC, Roux will continue to pursue the overall objectives described in the AOC and the RI/FS Work Plan. Roux will continue to inform the USEPA of completed and upcoming activities pursuant to the requirements of the AOC in future progress reports.

Respectfully submitted,

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#### **APPENDIX A**

Project Schedule

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